



## FUTURE NEEDS

### Biodiversity, the natural response to a necessary change

IED Conference- 14 October 2021

Simultaneously with the holding of the UN Biodiversity Conference, the IED is organising a conference on 14 October 2021 in San Marino to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Europe to preserve Biodiversity.

Biodiversity is of outmost importance and in the last decades we have witnessed an increase of the dialogue and actions taken towards it. From the late 1980's when at the world level was started a negotiation process that led to the signature and then entry into force of the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) on 29 December 1993<sup>1</sup> until the moment when the importance of biodiversity was fully interiorised at the European Union level, we have all seen an increase of the awareness process.

Biodiversity matters mainly because:

- Biodiversity is essential for life. Our planet and the economy depend on it. When nature is healthy, it protects and provides.
- We are losing nature like never because of unsustainable human activities.
- Biodiversity loss and the climate crisis are interdependent, and they exacerbate each other<sup>2</sup>.

An important EU milestone was represented by the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (adopted in 2011) aimed to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and to restore them as far as possible, while also helping to curb global biodiversity loss<sup>3</sup>. The success of it determined the adoption of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives](#)<sup>4</sup> (adopted in 2020).

The 2030 Strategy has set up an ambitious transformational systemic change that would have not only European but also worldwide effects as it sets out ambitious measures in the sphere of EU external action through the EU's 'Green Deal diplomacy', including in international ocean governance, trade, development co-operation, neighborhood policies and resource mobilisation. Also, important financial resources are to be unlocked for nature, encouraging businesses, public authorities, cities and local authorities to include biodiversity concerns in their decision-making.<sup>5</sup>

Other than the climate change impact we need to remember that more than half of global GDP – some €40 trillion – depends on nature and sectors such as construction, agriculture or food and drink are all highly dependent on nature. The economic and social cost of inaction are just too high to be supported on the long term and they are even life threatening as more than 75% of global food crop types rely on animal pollination.

Biodiversity is also about creating direct and indirect jobs that bring life back to the communities, either in protected areas management and conservation activities or in the agriculture or tourism sector<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, <https://www.cbd.int/history/>

<sup>2</sup> Factsheet: EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_906](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_906)

<sup>3</sup> EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy\\_2020/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy_2020/index_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Biodiversity strategy for 2030, [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030\\_en#the-business-case-for-biodiversity](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en#the-business-case-for-biodiversity)

<sup>5</sup> EU Biodiversity strategy info sheet, [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/env-20-002\\_factsheet1-vbo-en-b.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/env-20-002_factsheet1-vbo-en-b.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Economic impact of biodiversity, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs\\_20\\_907](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_20_907)